

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

A board meeting of the Sugar Lake Association was held on April 8, 2017 at Corinna Town Hall. It began at 8:07 AM and was presided over by Sally Quinn Phenow, with Andrea Welter as secretary.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance: Robin Fox, Todd Latterell, Sally Quinn Phenow, Robert Strom, Paul Gustafson, Don Peterson, Kathy Suddendorf, Keith Theisen, Sheldon Brown, Ron Elsner, Dan Erdmann, Andrea Welter.

Members not in attendance: Sue Mann, Suzanne McDonald, Doug Miller, Marsha Shrupp, Gary Borrell, Larry Jude.

Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous October 15, 2016 meeting, with corrections, was made by K. Suddendorf and seconded by P. Gustafson.

Officers' Reports

A. Treasurer's report (T. Latterell)

Motion: Moved by Paul Gustafson and seconded by (???????) to accept the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

B. Membership Report (Don Peterson).

Committee is using Little Green Light database, which has been very helpful in customizing . They used it for the treatment letter and send membership info to past members. It compares county data to SLA data and can identify all property owners who are not members.

Ron Elsner will help with soliciting advertising for the biennial directory. He will contact the local chambers of commerce.

Publication is slated for mid July.

Discussion about increasing ad fees. Decided not to vote on it at this time.

K. Theisen shared that there were 281 forms mailed, and have currently received 61 back so far.

SLA website has a membership form online that can be printed and mailed.

Other Reports

A. Water Quality Report (Dan Erdmann)

4-7-17

water clarity 13 feet

water temperature 46 degrees F

surface temp 43.50 degrees F

culvert inlet 17.5 inches

culvert outlet 23 inches

2 loon platforms were placed on 4-2-17

B. Boat Landing (Bob Peltier)

Monitoring system will take place every weekend and holidays from May 12 through September 24th. Fridays 1PM-7PM, Saturdays and Sundays 6AM-12PM and 1PM-7PM. 1-3 additional shifts per week will be provided by the DNR. Staff do not have the authority to issue tickets, but have a direct line to the county sheriff's office.

C. Lake Vegetation presented by Dale Gustafson

In late May or early June (insert name of company here???) will do a delineation of invasive plants at the cost of @\$1000.

Dale shared that the frustration we feel about how we are being treated by the DNR in regards to treatment area percentage approval is shared by many area lakes. While this is still frustrating, we are not being singled out.

Eurasian Water Milfoil has been less evident in recent years, and he doesn't really know why.

Water quality projects.

The vast amount of the money went to field projects to control/slow down runoff from entering the lake. There are still some more expenses coming as some projects required some fixes and there were some unforeseen obstacles. All should be completed this spring.

A subcommittee is in the process of identifying the top 10 areas where water entering the lake is an issue, and groups will meet, along with the owners in that area to see what can be done to address it. Paul suggested that the board address the top 5 problems instead of just the owners to help avoid creating tension between neighbors who could potentially blame each other. Our goal should be education. In addition we could encourage others by highlighting positive projects that have been completed in the newsletter.

D. Newsletter (Don Peterson)

Motion by Sally Quinn Phenow to increase raffle tickets price to \$2 per ticket (currently \$1).

Discussion

No 2nd-decision to put it off further discussion for today and look at it further at a future meeting.

E. Update Committee Assignments

S. Quinn-Phenow will email list of committees to board, and at the May meeting members will be expected to sign up

New Business

A. April 29 Lunch and Learn Workshop

Focus will be Starry Stonewort information and update on the planned decontamination station proposed for Annandale site to service Lake Sylvia, Lake John and Pleasant Lake boaters. Dale will help Ron.

B. Fundraising

Focus is increasing membership by trying to get previous members back.

C. Lake Sylvia/Starry Stonewort Update (R. Elsner)

Ron attended the Clearwater Watershed District meeting. Lake Koronis in Paynesville currently has 600 unusable acres due to S.S. It is an algae that grows at a rapid rate and creates a dense plant mass that can fill water up to a depth of 15-20 feet. It kills fish and native plants.

Currently there are 9 infested lakes in Minnesota. The closest one to Sugar is Lake Sylvia. There are plans in the works to build a decontamination station in Annandale, and a push for legislation to require decontamination of all boats entering and leaving Lake Sylvia, Lake John, and Pleasant Lake.

The DNR has previously resisted any restrictions on access, but it is under serious consideration, which would be a huge shift in policy. The drivers of this effort is that it is extremely detrimental to property values.

Dr. John Rogers from Clemson University is the expert on this invasive, and shared at his workshop that Ron attended that it grown upwards of one inch per day, and chokes everything out. Algaecides and herbicides are not effective. Board expressed great concern that boaters who typically frequent Sylvia may now come to Sugar because of the increased requirement to decontaminate, and this will increase our traffic, and increase our likelihood of being infected. Board expressed an interest in asking if Sugar could be included in the pilot program, but Ron believes it is not feasible because the size of the decontamination station is already going to be maxed out servicing boats for the other lakes.

D. Events Calendar

Need gold tournament date from Greg Selle.

Plant Sale is May 27 at Quinn's

E. Floating Bog Committee

Discussion about whether SLA should create a committee that will respond to floating bogs on the lake. Decision that SLA is not responsible, but that SLA will educate property owners about what you legally can and cannot do with your neighbors help.

Adjournment

Sally Quinn-Phenow moved that the meeting be adjourned, and seconded by Dan Erdmann. This was agreed upon at 10:15 AM.

SECRETARY APPROVAL: Andrea M. Welter

Sugar Lake Association _____

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